

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11
L-03 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 /156 W
-----030333 052327Z /65

R 05225Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1172
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01817

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI
SUBJECT: 64TH ECOSOC--ECOSOC PLENARY ADOPTS AMENDED
COVENANTS RESOLUTION

1. MORNING 5/3 ECOSOC PLENARY SESSION BEGAN WITH ARGENTINA COMPLAINING ABOUT BRITAIN'S NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION REPORT AS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENTS E/1978/8, 9 AND ADD.2. ARGENTINA SPECIFICALLY OBJECTED TO INCLUSION OF REFERENCE TO THE MALVINA ISLANDS IN THE REPORT AS BRITISH TERRITORY. BRITISH DELEGATION RESPONDED THAT ARGENTINIANS HAD INFORMED THEM IN ADVANCE THAT THIS COMPLAINT WOULD BE RAISED AND POINTED OUT THAT THE BRITISH REPORT IS A NATIONAL REPORT THAT COMMITS NO ONE BUT THE REPORTING GOVERNMENT.

2. MAIN ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 5, DRAFT RESOLUTION "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS" (E/1978/L.26, COSPONSORED BY ALGERIA, CANADA, FINLAND, HUNGARY, IRAN, IRAQ, NIGERIA, POLAND, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SYRIA, TUNISIA, UGANDA, UKRAINIAN SSR, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, TANZANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA). IN INTRODUCING THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPOSAL ON BEHALF OF THE COSPONSORS THE UKRAINIAN DELEGATE STATED THAT THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS HAD BEEN ACCEPTED: PARA (B) DELETE LINES 3 THROUGH 5 PERTAINING TO PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF ECOSOC. IN PARA (E) STRIKE FINAL THREE WORDS OF LINE 2, "IN RELATION TO" AND SUBSTITUTE THE WORDS "AND THE INCREASING".

3. FRANCE OBSERVED THAT PRIOR RESOLUTIONS RESERVE SOLELY TO ECOSOC THE RIGHT TO REVIEW REPORTS ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS. THEREFORE, EACH ECOSOC MEMBER HAS THE RIGHT TO SIT ON THE WORKING GROUP. THE FRENCH DELEGATE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS: PARA (B) LINE 5, AFTER WORD "COUNCIL" WILL READ "COULD APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP STATES MEMBERS OF ECOSOC THAT ARE NOT PARTIES TO THE COVENANT." PARA (E) LINE 2 DELETE REMAINDER OF PARA FOLLOWING "DISTRIBUTION." US CONTENDED THAT FORMULA IN PARA (A) FOR DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS DOES NOT FOLLOW PRINCIPLE OF EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION, AND THAT ACCORDING TO US INTERPRETATION AS WELL AS LEGAL OPINION, RESOLUTION 1988 CALLS FOR WORKING GROUP TO BE A MIXTURE OF STATES PARTIES AND STATES NON-PARTIES TO THE COVENANT.

4. MAURITANIA HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT APPOINTMENT OF OBSERVERS UNDER PARA (C) AND NOTED THAT RULE 75 OF RULES OF PROCEDURE DIFFERS FROM PARA (C) (IV). MAURITANIA PROPOSED FOLLOWING AMENDMENT. DELETE PARA (C) (IV) AND INSERT NEW PARA (D): "THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES CONCERNED SHALL BE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 75 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE." CURRENT PARAS (D) AND (E) WOULD BECOME UNCLASSIFIED

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PARAS (E) AND (F) RESPECTIVELY.

5. FRG, JAPAN, AND UK SUPPORTED FRENCH AMENDMENTS. CANADA RECOGNIZED DIFFERENCE IN LEGAL STATUS BETWEEN STATES PARTIES AND STATES NOT PARTIES TO THE COVENANTS. STATES PARTIES HAD A SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE EXAMINATION OF THE REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES. CANADA FOUND THE DRAFT RESOLUTION'S FORMULA FOR INITIAL GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION FAIR. PHILIPPINES AND AUSTRALIA SUPPORTED CANADIAN INTERVENTION AND TUNISIA SUPPORTED UKRAINIAN AMENDMENTS, ASDID IRAN. FOLLOWING REPEATED REQUESTS FROM THE COSPONSORS, FRANCE WITHDREW ITS AMENDMENTS NOTING THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS AND ASKED FOR A VOTE ON L.26. MAURITANIA ASKED FOR ITS AMENDMENT TO BE ADOPTED WITHOUT A VOTE. USDEL PROPOSED TO AMEND PARA (A) TO PROVIDE A SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP OF NINETEEN, WITH 5 AFRICANS, 4 ASIANS, 2 EASTERN EUROPEANS, 4 LATINS AND 4 WEOS. UKRAINIAN DELEGATE APPEALED TO US AND MAURITANIA TO DROP AMENDMENTS. FRG NOTED IMPORTANCE OF DECISION ON US PROPOSAL AND REQUESTED ROLL CALL VOTE. MEXICO SET TONE FOR LATIN GROUP BY NOTING

THAT US AMENDMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN "PERFECT" IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, BUT TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS, MEXICO WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF L.26, BUT WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY VOTE ON THE US PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

6. VOTE ON US PROPOSAL WAS 6(US)-24-14.

7. MAURITANIA THEN WITHDREW ITS AMENDMENT AND

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FRG REQUESTED A ROLL CALL VOTE ON L.26. VOTE ON L.26 WAS 38-2(US)-7. FRANCE JOINED THE US IN VOTING "NO." THOSE ABSTAINING WERE ARGENTINA, AUSTRIA, FRG, GREECE, ITALY, JAPAN, AND UK.

8. BEFORE ADJOURNING THE MEETING, ECOSOC ALSO APPROVED BY CONSENSUS THE PROPOSALS TO HAVE THE SECRETARIAT PREPARE ANALYTICAL STATEMENTS ISSUED ON WORKING GROUP MATERIALS AND TO HAVE SUMMARY RECORDS MADE OF WORKING GROUP DELIBERATIONS. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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